

Application No. 10/750,467
Amendment dated 07/31/2005 responding to Office Action dated 06/10/2005

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1 1. (Original) An apparatus for controllably obstructing and permitting airflow through a vent of
2 a forced air system, the apparatus comprising:

3 an inflatable and deflatable bladder;

4 a nipple coupled to the bladder and having a hole extending through the nipple and into
5 airflow communication with an interior of the bladder;

6 a rigid strap for coupling to the vent;

7 an air tube coupled to the nipple; and

8 a clamp coupling the air tube to the strap.

1 2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

2 a pin piercing the nipple and the air tube to couple the air tube to the nipple.

1 3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein:

2 the pin pierces through an inner airflow diameter of the air tube.

1 4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising:

2 a band securing the pin to the nipple.

1 5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein:

2 the band is crimped onto the nipple in a position over the pin.

1 6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising:

2 a transverse hole pre-formed through the nipple for accepting the pin.

1 7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:

2 the strap is adapted for coupling to the vent at an end of the strap away from the clamp.

1 8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:

2 the bladder is secured to the vent only indirectly by the air hose.

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1 9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
2 a mounting clamp coupling the nipple to the strap.

1 10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
2 the bladder has a donut shape.

1 11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the vent is located directly on a trunk which
2 also has additional vents or ducts downstream of the vent, and the apparatus further comprises:
3 a roofed passageway disposed within the trunk;
4 wherein the donut shaped bladder is disposed beneath the roofed passageway and
5 surrounding the vent.

1 12. (Original) A pneumatic bladder assembly for use as an airflow control mechanism in an
2 HVAC system, in which an air pump selectively provides one of pressure and vacuum to an air
3 tube extending through ductwork of the HVAC system, the pneumatic bladder assembly
4 comprising:

5 an inflatable and deflatable bladder having a nipple for coupling to the air tube; and
6 a pin piercing the nipple and the air tube, thereby securing the air tube to the nipple.

1 13. (Original) The pneumatic bladder assembly of claim 12 further comprising:
2 a band surrounding the nipple and the pin to prevent the pin from dislodging from the
3 nipple.

1 14. (Original) The pneumatic bladder assembly of claim 12 further comprising:
2 a rigid strap for coupling to the ductwork; and
3 a clamp coupled to the strap, for coupling to the air tube.

1 15. (Original) The pneumatic bladder assembly of claim 12 wherein:
2 the pin pierces through an inner diameter of the air tube, wherein the pin is in contact
3 with the pressure and vacuum.

1 16. (Original) The pneumatic bladder assembly of claim 12 wherein:
2 the bladder has a donut shape.

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- 1 17. (Original) The pneumatic bladder assembly of claim 16 further comprising:
 - 2 a roof, couplable to the ductwork above a vent hole in the ductwork, and surrounded by
 - 3 the donut shaped bladder, wherein when the bladder is inflated, the bladder seals a space
 - 4 between the roof and the ductwork, thereby preventing conditioned air from passing from the
 - 5 ductwork out the vent hole.
- 1 18. (Original) The pneumatic bladder assembly of claim 17 wherein:
 - 2 the roof comprises a substantially planar member; and
 - 3 a plurality of bolts supporting the roof.
- 1 19. (Original) The pneumatic bladder assembly of claim 12 further comprising:
 - 2 a clamp for securing the air tube to the ductwork, whereby the bladder is hung from the
 - 3 clamp in a substantially vertical duct.
- 1 20. (Original) An inflatable and deflatable bladder comprising:
 - 2 a plurality of panels coupled together to form a flexible bladder;
 - 3 a support block coupled to one of the panels and having a hole which passes through the
 - 4 support block and through the one panel to provide airflow communication to an interior of the
 - 5 bladder;
 - 6 an air tube disposed within and forming a substantially airtight seal with the hole; and
 - 7 a clamp securing the air tube to the support block, to provide strain relief for the tube to
 - 8 prevent the tube from being pulled out of the hole.
- 1 21. (Original) The bladder of claim 20 wherein:
 - 2 the hole is equipped with barbs for retaining the air tube.